

BRIAN HIGGINS  
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

REGIONAL WHIP

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3226**

2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3306  
(202) 226-0347 (FAX)

726 EXCHANGE STREET  
SUITE 601  
BUFFALO, NY 14210  
(716) 852-3501  
(716) 852-3929 (FAX)

800 MAIN STREET  
SUITE 3C  
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301  
(716) 282-1274  
(716) 282-2479 (FAX)  
higgins.house.gov

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas:

I applaud the news that most travelers entering Canada will not need to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. I write to assert the need for the United States to go one step further and consider the elimination of current vaccination requirements for all travelers at land ports of entry, which inhibit cross-border travel, the flow of commerce, and create an unnecessary barrier to the eventual resumption of pre-pandemic cross-border activity.

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Canada welcomed back Americans to cross at land ports of entry after over a year of separation from loved ones, properties, and businesses. It was not until November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 that the United States reciprocated. It is once again time to follow their lead and relax restrictions to adhere to current COVID-19 metrics and scientific guidelines. As of today, over 81% of Canada's population and 65% of Americans are fully vaccinated. Community spread and hospitalizations continue to decrease. As of March 1, 2022, the Ontario Ministry of Health lifted capacity limits for indoor settings and proof of vaccination requirements. In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued guidance based on COVID hospitalization and infection rates, it is safe for Americans in most communities to go without wearing a mask if they choose to do so.

I echo Prime Minister Trudeau's remarks today, which stated that Canada will continue to look at easing measures at the borders, and "...individual choices and autonomy, informed by science, informed by public health recommendations is I think something that we all agree on." I hope the United States will do the same. Based on current trends, I believe it is time to follow the science and remove the remaining restrictions at the U.S. and Canadian borders to allow Americans and Canadians to move freely across.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this most important issue. A robust binational relationship between the United States and Canada is critical to the future of my district in Western New York.

Sincerely,



BRIAN HIGGINS  
Member of Congress